(*d*) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to the bus services and to the police to discontinue the practice of reserving seats for the police?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Only the driver is said to have objected to the two gentlemen occupying the front seats on the ground that they had been reserved for the police.

" (*c*) No such general practice can be said to exist.

" (*d*) Government have issued a Press Note [a] giving necessary directions in the matter."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" On a point of information, Sir. I remember to have read in the papers that a similar question but with regard to another bus service has been raised on the floor of the Assembly. If there is any case pending in the court, I am afraid the giving out of the answer may prejudice the case. If no case is pending, I don't have any objection."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" No case is pending in the court, nor is the matter likely to go before any court. May I know the exact nature of the directions and whether the bus service has been instructed not to reserve seats for the police? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The directions are contained in the press note which has been published and which *inter alia* says :

The present position, therefore, is that no special preference can be claimed in respect of any particular seat in a bus, by any Government official including a touring official of the Police, Revenue or any other department. Any instance of discrimination by the driver or the conductor in favour of a Government official should be brought to the notice of the Regional Transport Officer concerned."

Inclusion of Conjeeveram town in the Prohibition area.

* 159 *Q.*—SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Conjeeveram town being in the vicinity of the North Arcot district has been included in the Prohibition area from the 1st of October;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that all the toddy shops in Conjeeveram town have been ordered to be closed;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the arrack shops have not been ordered to be closed;

---

a Printed as Appendix IV on page 41 infra.

[4th December 1947

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the purpose of Prohibition in belt area will not be properly served if the arrack shops are kept open;

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to close the arrack shops as well;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the coconut trees in Conjeeveram town are being tapped after the 1st of October; and

(*g*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to stop the tapping of the coconut and other palm trees within the belt area?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) No. But a belt area of 5 miles adjoining the North Arcot and other Prohibition districts, free of liquor shops, has been established.

" (*b*) *to* (*e*) All toddy shops were ordered to be closed from 1st October 1947. All arrack shops also were ordered to be closed after giving 15 days' notice.

" (*f*) Yes.

" (*g*) As some of the toddy shops outside the five-mile belt area depend mainly on the trees within the belt area, it is not possible to issue orders as suggested."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that in the absence of toddy shops, every coconut and palm tree becomes a toddy shop and that toddy is sold under the trees? That is what happens every day under the trees."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" The rule absolutely prohibits any such state of affairs. It is not possible or practicable for the Government to post a police constable or an excise official under every palmyra or coconut tree. But we have issued special instructions to depute some officers to prevent such abuse."

The Provincial Broadcasting department.

* 160 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the staff employed under the Provincial Broadcasting department and their emoluments;

(*b*) the number of sets installed in the rural areas;

(*c*) whether all the radio sets installed were locally made or purchased;

(*d*) whether any portion or the whole cost of the radio sets is recovered from the local authorities;

(*e*) what are the conditions on which maintenance of these sets is arranged;

(*f*) whether there is any workshop or laboratory attached to the office of the Officer of the Provincial Broadcasting where repairs are carried;